REMARKS

Claim Amendments

The claim amendments are merely amendment to the form of the claims. No change in scope is achieved in any amended claim. Thus, their entry is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 is amended by removing a comma just prior to the period at the end of the claim.

Claim 25 is amended to be depended on claim 1 instead of claim 24. Since claim 25 already requires the features of claim 24, there is no change in scope.

The Rejections Under 35 USC § 102 and 103

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-13 and 15-17 were rejected as allegedly anticipated by WO '336 and claims 14 and 18 were rejected as allegedly obvious over WO '336.

Allegedly example 75 of the reference anticipates since it comprises compounds (ME2.NF, ME3N.F, ME4N.F, PCH-3N.F.F., CC-5-V, CC-3-V1, CCP-V-1, CCP-V2-1, PTP-201, CCQU-2-F and CCQU-3-F). Compounds CC-5-V, CC-3-V1, CCP-V-1 and CCP-V2-1 in example 75 are the closest compounds to the compounds of formula IV (and these compounds are labeled as compounds of formula IV on the USPTO supplied copy of the reference). However, these compounds are not compounds within the scope of formula IV because compounds of formula IV have a fluorine substituent at L¹. None of the compounds alleged to be compounds of formula IV contain a corresponding fluorine substituent. The rest of the compounds recited by the Office Action have structures that are different than of formula IV. There is no anticipation.

Claim 14 is alleged to be obvious because allegedly the more specific ranges of components are obvious, and claim 18 is alleged to be obvious as three homologous compounds of formula A are allegedly obvious. The assumption appears to be that the medium of claim 1, on which claim both claims 14 and 18 depend, is anticipated. However, there is no motivation for a medium of claim 1, and thus, for at least this reason, there is also no obviousness of claims 14 and 18.

23 Att. Doc. No: Merck-2839

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

Csaba Henter, Reg. No. 50,908 Anthony J. Zelano, Reg. No. 27,969 Attorneys for Applicants

MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO & BRANIGAN, P.C. Arlington Courthouse Plaza I 2200 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1400 Arlington, Virginia 22201

Direct Dial: 703-812-5331 Facsimile: 703-243-6410

Filed: October 23, 2006

K:\MERCK\2000 - 2999\2839\REPLY OCT 06.DOC